

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
receiving a user input selecting the text from the electronic book to form selected text; and
automatically sending the selected text to each electronic book for a designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.
 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
displaying a list wherein the designated set of recipients is selected from the list.
 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected text is highlighted text.
 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the highlighted text is text in a different color from unselected text, bolded text, and text with a different font type from unselected text.
 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
storing the highlighted text in a data structure.
 6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein data structure is a download file.
 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is a notated passage of text in the electronic book.
 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the text is a highlighted passage of text in the electronic book.
 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the highlighted text to the designated set of recipients using a communications link.

A1

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the sending step sends the highlighted text to the designated set of recipients in an electronic mail message.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the highlighted text is located in a body of the electronic mail message.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the highlighted text is located in an attachment attached to the electronic mail message.

13. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for sharing highlighted text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
receiving a first user input selecting the highlighted text from the electronic book;
displaying a list of recipients;
receiving a second user input selecting a designated set of recipients from the list recipients; and
sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients.

14. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, the method comprising:
receiving selected text from at least one remote electronic book through a communications link to the data processing system;
sorting the selected text from the at least one remote electronic book using a selection criteria to form sorted text;
displaying the sorted text; and
responsive to a user input selecting at least a portion of the sorted text being displayed, highlighting portions of the electronic book based on the user input.

15. Canceled

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16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein selection criteria is used to sort and group the selected text.
 17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria includes at least one of popularity, name of a user originating text within the selected text, and subject matter of portions of text within the selected text.
 18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text includes passages from the at least one remote electronic book.
 19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selected text includes annotations made by a user.
 20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria is received from a user input.
 21. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the selection criteria is received with the selected text.
 22. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the sorted text excludes a portion of the selected text.
 23. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, the data processing system comprising:
 - receiving means for receiving a user input selecting the text from the electronic book; and
 - sending means for automatically sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

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24. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for sharing highlighted text in an electronic book, the ~~method~~ data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a first user input selecting the highlighted text from the electronic book;

displaying means for displaying a list of recipients;

receiving means for receiving a second user input selecting a designated set of recipients from the list of recipients; and

sending means for sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients.

25. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for sharing text in an electronic book, a data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving selected text from at least one remote electronic book through a communications link to the data processing system;

receiving means for receiving selection criteria for the selected text;

sorting means for sorting the selected text with respect to the selection criteria to form sorted text; and

~~displaying means for displaying the sorted text.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications unit connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a user input selecting the text from the electronic book; and automatically send the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.

A1

27. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for sharing highlighted text in an electronic book, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a user input selecting the text from the electronic book; and

second instructions for automatically sending the highlighted text to each electronic book for the designated set of recipients in response to receiving the user input selecting the text.
